

# **ADULT FLAG FOOTBALL LEAGUE 2008 RULES AND REGULATIONS**

## **Rules Governing Play**

The current High School Federation Rule Book will govern play in the 2009 Sports Flag Football League with the following being the exceptions. The following is not an inclusive list of amendments and League Administration reserves the right to rule on issues that may arise during the course of the season.

## **Description of the Game**

- A. The game of flag football is played with seven players per team on the field. It is played similar to regulation football with the exception of the ball carrier being tackled; instead, the defensive player removes their flag belt. All players are eligible to catch the football which makes the game of flag football a game of finesse unlike tackle football which is a game of strength. Any combination of players may be used for line or back field.
- B. The regulation dimension for the field shall be 70 yards in length and 40 yards in width, plus two 10-yard end-zones.
- C. Each line crossed results in a first down.

## **2 Uniforms**

- A. All the team members must wear jerseys of the same color. Each player must have identifying numbers on front and or back. Uniforms are supplied by the team.
- B. All jerseys must be tucked in unless short.
- C. The color of the flag belt must be different from the color of the pants worn by the individual players during the game. Note: pants may not have belt loops. League will provide the flag belts.
- D. Regular football equipment and pads are prohibited. Only elbow/knee pads and gloves are allowed. No jewelry, forearm pads, etc.
- E. A mouth piece is recommended for every player.
- F. Glasses will not be allowed. EXCEPTION: Sports goggles will be allowed.
- G. All players must wear shoes. Shoes with rubber cleats are permitted. Detachable cleats are also permitted. Street shoes and metal cleats are not permitted.

- H. Uniform rule will be in affect starting with the 2<sup>nd</sup> league game. Players will not be able to play if they do not have proper uniform.

### **Game Ball**

- A. The football may be no smaller than an official high school and no larger than NFL dimensions.
- B. Each team is to provide their own ball, and must comply with high school dimensions.

### **Time of the Game**

- A. There will be two 25-minute halves running time, with a five-minute or less halftime. All time will be at referee's discretion. There will be a ten minute grace period allowed; grace period is from the game starting time. Game time will be deducted from the grace period.
- B. The clock shall be stopped for requested time outs. The clock will also be stopped after all touchdowns and safeties. The clock will resume with the ball placed on the twenty-yard line following a touchdown or a safety.
- C. During the last two minutes of the game, the clock shall stop as per federation stop time rules. The clock will be stopped for placement of the first down, and then restarted by the referees whistle. The coach will be notified when they are with-in the last two minutes of the game. The clock will stop only for this notification and will be restarted immediately.
- D. Each team will be allowed two 30 second time outs per half. Any time outs remaining from the first half will not be carried over to the second half.
- E. During time outs, one coach will be allowed on the field to confer with the team.
- F. After halftime, the teams shall change goals.
- G. At least six players are needed in order for the game to be considered official. If there aren't at least six players, the game will be a forfeit short handed team takes the forfeit regardless of the score. Score will be recorded as 20-0.
- H. Substitutions are unlimited.
- I. Scoring
- a. Touchdown = 6pts
  - b. Safety = 2pts
  - c. P.A.T. conversions: from the three yard line, it will be 1pt. From the five yard line, it will be 2pts.

## J. Tie scores

- a. In a regular season game, tie games will go to the California tie breaker, time permitting otherwise will end in tie.
- b. If the game is a play-off game the California tie breaker will be utilized to determine the winner.
  - i. California tie breaker
  - ii. Ball is placed on the 20 yard line.
  - iii. Teams shall run alternate plays until each team has run 4 offensive plays.
  - iv. Teams that gains the most yards is declared the winner.
  - v. Notes: interceptions are dead upon reception and ball is spotted on the 20 yard line or at the line of scrimmage whichever is most advantageous to the team who intercepted the ball. If a team scores a touchdown, they will attempt the point after touchdown (p.a.t.) the ball will then be placed on the mid-field line and the team will have 1 down to tie the score. If they are successful, California tie breaker repeats. If team fails, game is over. The winner of coin toss starts the California tie breaker as the defensive team.

## Rules of Play

- A. To start play: the winner of the coin toss must choose one of the following two privileges – the loser takes the other:
  - a. Winner may choose to kick off or receive
  - b. Winner may choose goal/side to defend
- B. No kick-offs. Ball is placed on the 20 yard line at the start of each half, after touchdowns and after safeties.
- C. Punting
  - a. Neither team may cross the line of scrimmage until the ball is kicked.
  - b. The offensive team must declare to punt or not to punt, at all times. Penalty: five (5) yards.
  - c. The punt must be kicked within 30 seconds after the ball is put in play. Delay of game penalty: five (5) yards.
  - d. Following the delay of game penalty on a declared punt the clock will not start, until the ball is kicked.

#### D. Downs

- a. If the offensive team fails to advance the ball to the next zone in four downs, they shall lose possession of the ball to their opponents at the spot where the ball is declared dead on the fourth (4) down.
- b. If any part of the ball touches, or the point of the ball is over a zone line, the next zone is played.

#### E. Passing

- a. All players are eligible to receive passes. The offensive team may throw as many forward passes as they wish, as long as the forward passes are thrown from behind the line of scrimmage. Penalty: illegal forward pass, loss of down and five (5) yards.
- b. A forward pass may be completed behind the line of scrimmage. This is a pass play not a running play.
- c. Pass interference shall be penalized as follows:
  - i. Interference by offense
    1. If foul occurs on field of play, ten yards from previous spot plus loss of down.
    2. If foul occurs in team B's end zone on 4<sup>th</sup> down, it is a touchback. If foul occurs on first through third downs, it is ten yards from previous spot plus loss of down.
  - ii. Interference by defense
    1. If foul occurs on field of play, team A's ball at the spot of foul and first down.
    2. If foul occurs in team B's end zone, team A's ball and first down at B's one yard line, or if the previous spot was inside that line, first down half way between the previous spot and goal line.
    3. Roughing the passer: it shall be a foul to tackle, sack, hit quarterback's arm, straight-arm, push, or grab the passer. Penalty: ten yards from the previous spot (incomplete pass).

#### F. Running Plays

- a. There is no running allowed in this passing league.
- b. There must be an overhand pass made behind the line of scrimmage.
- c. The quarterback cannot run at any time.
- d. If a run play happens the penalty: 5 yard loss of down.

#### H. The Huddle

- a. There shall be a 30 second limit to anyone huddle. Penalty: 5 yards
- b. No hideouts will be permitted. All plays must start within ten yards of the ball.  
Penalty: loss 10 yards.
- c. The team does not have to huddle

#### I. Centering the Ball

- a. The ball must be passed from between the legs of the center to a teammate.  
Penalty: illegal procedure - 5 yards.
- b. Encroachment: no player shall encroach on the neutral zone after the ball is ready for play and before the snap. By touching the ball or an opponent or by being beyond the neutral zone to give defensive signals to hinder or deceive an opponent. After the snapper has made his final adjustment of the ball, it is encroachment for any player to break the plane or the line of scrimmage, except for the snapper's right to be over the ball.

#### League Procedures

- A. The total league fee is \$500.00 **No partial payments will be accepted!!**
- B. All players must sign a city release waiver prior to the start of the game. If a player arrives late they cannot enter the game until waiver is signed at the referee's discretion.
- C. Team captain or a team representative **MUST** attend the Manager's Meeting in order for team to be eligible for league play.
- D. 7 minimum, maximum 13 players on a team. Teams may add and drop players up to game 5.
- E. To add and drop players email League Administrator Jeff Smith at [jesmith@santabarbaraca.gov](mailto:jesmith@santabarbaraca.gov)

#### Sportsmanship

- A. Only the manager or captain is allowed to talk with the officials.

B. Unsportsmanlike conduct violation(s) may result in ejection from the game(s).  
Note: any player ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will automatically be suspended from at least his team's next game and up to suspension from the league (pending severity).

C. Any player(s) who engages in a physical altercation will be:

1. Suspended from the league.

D. City ordinance prohibits alcoholic beverages at city recreation centers.

### **Fighting**

A. This league has zero tolerance for fighting (instigator or retaliator), and it is cause for indefinite and immediate suspension from the league.

### **Rosters**

A. The number of players per roster is 13.

B. The roster must be turned in prior to the start of the league. However, roster changes may be made during the first 5 games.

C. No roster changes will be allowed after the 5<sup>th</sup> game.

### **Protests**

A. Protests on rule misinterpretations will be allowed.

B. Protest procedure goes as follows:

1. Team must notify the Head Official that they are playing the game under protest before the next play. EXCEPTION: Protesting a player's eligibility can be done at any point of the game.

2. Written protest must be submitted to league office with 48 hours of the game in question.

3. A Check in the amount of \$25.00 must accompany the written protest.

4. If protest is up-held, \$25.00 fee will be refunded and League Commissioner will advise as to what next.

5. If protest is denied, \$25.00 fee will be deposited into the league's financial account.

### **Game Set-Up**

A. All games will be played on Mondays at Dwight Murphy Softball Field across the street from the Santa Barbara Zoo. For directions call 564-5422.

B. League standings will be determined by a point system:

Win = 2points, Tie = 1point, Loss = 0 points, Forfeit = -1 point.

C. In the event of a tie in the standings, the following will be the means for breaking the tie:

- 1) Win/Loss record
- 2) Point for Point game differential
- 3) Head to head competition
- 4) Coin flip.

### **House Rules and Other Information**

#### **A Player Eligibility**

- a. 13 player team roster limit
- b. All players must be 18 years of age or older by the start of the league in order to participate.
- c. Once a player has signed the official League Roster, that player may no longer play for any other team in the league for the same season.
- d. Each player must completely fill out the appropriate information on the team roster to be eligible for league play. Failure to comply shall result in forfeiture of the game(s).

B There will be a ten minute grace period allowed; grace period is from the game starting time.

C There will be two twenty five-minute halves and the game clock will only stop after the two-minute warning of the second half. During the two minutes of the second half, if a point differential of sixteen points or greater exists, the clock will not stop.

D The city of Santa Barbara parks and recreation does not provide insurance. All participants assume their own responsibility.

E A player, who gains control of ball and does not have a flag belt, cannot advance. It is a dead ball at the spot of the catch and the reception counts.

F Intentional removal of a player's flag belt by a defender will result in an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty 15 yards.

G No bumping the ball carrier out of bounds. Defender must go for the flags. Penalty: unnecessary roughing; 10 yards from the end of the play.

- H No fumbles. Ball is dead at the point that it hits the ground. A snapped ball that makes contact with the turf before reaching the quarterback is dead at that point.
- I There is no blocking in this league. Players may screen each other without making contact.
- J Flag guarding: player may not utilize any part of his body and or the ball in effort to keep defender from removing his flags. Penalty: 10 yards from the Spot of Foul (s.o.f) & loss of down.
- K Hurdling: ball carrier may not hurdle over a defender in effort to avoid his flag belt from being pulled: penalty: 10 yards from the Spot of Foul (s.o.f.) & loss of down.
- L Straight arm or ramming: ball carrier may not straight arm or ram into a defender in effort to avoid his flag belt from being pulled: penalty: 10 yards from the Spot of Foul (s.o.f.) & loss of down.
- M In the event that a ball carrier hangs a towel from his waist, the ball carrier will be declared down if the defender should remove the towel instead of the flags.
- N Inadvertent whistle results in the play being called dead at the point the whistle was blown.
- O All players must treat all other players, officials and league administrators with respect.
- P No refunds of any sort unless league is canceled.
- Q League commissioner for this season is Jeff Smith, Sports Supervisor, City of Santa Barbara. [jesmith@santabarbaraca.gov](mailto:jesmith@santabarbaraca.gov), 805-897-1944.
- R For updated league information visit our web site  
[www.santabarbaraca.gov/Resident/Recreation\\_and\\_Sports/Adult\\_Sports/](http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/Resident/Recreation_and_Sports/Adult_Sports/)
- S Changes to schedule will not be allowed unless deemed necessary by the league administration.
- T It is the Manager's responsibility to inform their entire team about the league's rules & conduct.
- U Failure to comply any of the rules may result in forfeiture of game.
- V Rushing is allowed. Players must start their rush from 7 yards behind the line of scrimmage.
- W Good luck to all teams.